AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 2, 3, 7, 8, 11, 13-15, 17-20, 22-24, 27-30, 32-34, 38-43, 45, and 46 were originally pending. Please cancel claims 17 and 20 without prejudice. In view of these amendments, claims 2, 3, 7, 8, 11, 13-15, 18-19, 22-24, 27-30, 32-34, 38-43, 45, and 46 remain pending.

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Canceled)

2. (Previously presented) A method comprising:

receiving, by a USB device, a host-specific device request from an application executing on a computing device coupled to the USB device;

identifying, by the USB device, a host-defined string descriptor defined by the application, the host-defined string descriptor being stored in firmware of the USB device; and

wherein the host-defined string descriptor comprises a custom property section comprised of one or more custom property entries, each custom property entry comprising information that corresponds to a respective custom property for the USB device.

3. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 2, wherein the host-defined string descriptor further comprises:

a header section comprising an indication of the number of custom property entries for which mappings exist in the custom property section.

4-6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously presented) A method comprising:

querying, by a computing device coupled to a USB device, the USB device with a host-specific device request for a host-defined string descriptor associated with user interface information stored in firmware of the USB device;

responsive to the querying, receiving by the computing device, at least a portion of the user interface information; and

wherein the host-defined string descriptor comprises a custom property section comprised of one or more custom property entries, each custom property entry comprising information that corresponds to a respective custom property for the USB device.

8. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 7, wherein the host-defined string descriptor further comprisesa header section comprising an indication of the number of custom properties property entries for which mappings exist in the custom property section.

9-10. (Canceled).

11. (Previously presented) One or more computer-readable media containing a computer executable program that performs a method as recited in claim 7.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Previously presented) In a USB device that responds to device requests from a host, the device requests including USB-specific device requests with corresponding USB-specified request codes and device-specific device requests with corresponding device-specified request codes, the USB-specific device requests including a GET_DESCRIPTOR device request with a corresponding GET_DESCRIPTOR request code, a method comprising:

receiving a GET_DESCRIPTOR device request that specifies a predetermined index, the GET_DESCRIPTOR device request having been received from an application executing on a remote computing device;

responding to the GET_DESCRIPTOR device request by returning a device-specific request code for subsequent use by the USB device to send an extended property descriptor responsive to subsequent receipt of a host-specific device request from the remote computing device, the extended property descriptor specifying user interface information corresponding to the USB device and provided by a vendor as being in a data format compatible with the application; and

wherein the user interface information comprises a custom property section comprised of one or more custom property entries, each custom property entry

comprising information that corresponds to a respective custom property for the USB device.

14. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 13, wherein the user interface information further comprises

a header section comprising an indication of the number of custom properties property entries for which mappings exist in the custom property section.

15. (Previously presented) One or more computer-readable media containing a computer executable program that performs a method as recited in claim 13.

16 -17. (Canceled)

18. (Previously presented) A method comprising:

communicating, by a component of an operating system, a non-standard USB device request to a device, the non-standard USB device request requesting an extended property from the device, the extended property providing data that is predetermined to be compatible for use by the component or the operating system, the data comprising user interface information associated with the USB device;

responsive to the communicating, receiving, by the component, an extended property descriptor from the device, the extended property descriptor comprising at least the extended property; and

wherein the extended property descriptor further comprises a custom property section comprised of one or more custom property entries, each custom property entry comprising information that corresponds to a respective custom property for the USB device.

19. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 18, wherein the extended property descriptor further comprisesa header section comprising an indication of the number of custom properties property entries for which mappings exist in the custom property section.

20 - 21. (Canceled)

22. (Previously presented) A USB device comprising:

a processor;

a port coupled to the processor;

a memory coupled to the processor;

an extended property descriptor stored in the memory, the extended property descriptor identifying a set of user interface information corresponding to the USB device and in a data format predetermined to be compatible for use by a requesting application executing on a remote computing device, the extended property descriptor further comprising a custom property section comprised of one or more custom property entries, each custom property entry comprising

information that corresponds to a respective custom property for the USB device; and

a control program module stored in the memory, the control program module being configured to send the extended configuration descriptor to a requestor in response to receiving a host-specific device request at the port.

23. (Previously presented) A USB device recited in claim 22, wherein the extended property descriptor further comprises

a header section comprising an indication of the number of custom properties property entries for which mappings exist in the custom property section.

24. (Previously presented) A USB device recited in claim 22, wherein the set of user interface information is in a data format specified in anticipation of its compatible use by an operating system.

25-26. (Canceled)

27. (Previously presented) A computer-readable storage medium comprising computer-executable instructions utilized by an application program to interact with a USB device, wherein the computer-executable instructions comprise:

receiving a request from an application program for a property descriptor that specifies user interface information in a data format predetermined to be compatible for use by the application program and corresponding to the USB device;

querying the USB device with a host-specific device request to obtain the property descriptor;

responsive to the querying, receiving the property descriptor, the property descriptor comprising one or more custom property sections, each custom property section indicating information corresponding to a user interface element for the USB device;

providing the property descriptor to the requesting application program; and

augmenting, by the application program, a shell or user interface with the user interface information for presentation to a user.

28. (Previously presented) A computer-readable storage medium comprising computer-executable instructions utilized by an application program to interact with a USB device, wherein the computer-executable instructions comprise:

receiving a request from an application program for a property descriptor that specifies user interface information in a data format predetermined to be compatible for use by the application program and corresponding to the USB device;

querying the USB device with a host-specific device request to obtain the property descriptor;

responsive to the querying, receiving the property descriptor, the property descriptor comprising:

(a) a header section indicating the number of custom properties for which mappings exist in the property descriptor; and

(b) one or more custom property sections, each custom property section indicating information corresponding to a user interface element for the USB device;

providing the property descriptor to the requesting application program; and

augmenting, by the application program, a shell or user interface with the user interface information for presentation to a user.

29. (Previously presented) A computer-readable storage medium as recited in claim 27 , wherein the user interface information is selected from information comprising an icon, a font, a picture, a label, a help page, or a URL.

30. (Previously presented) A computer comprising one or more computer-readable media as recited in claim 27 .

31. (Canceled)

32. (Previously presented) One or more computer-readable media containing a computer-executable program for use in conjunction with a USB device that responds to device requests from the program, the device requests including USB-specific device requests with corresponding USB-specified request codes and device-specific device requests with corresponding device-specified request codes, the program comprising:

receiving a host-specific request for an extended property descriptor from a requestor, the extended property descriptor indicating one or more user interface elements that correspond to the USB device, the extended property descriptor further comprising a custom property section that corresponds to a user interface element of the one or more user interface elements, the one or more user interface elements being predetermined to be compatible for use by an application executing or for execution on a remote computing device; and

responsive to the receiving, communicating the extended property descriptor to the requestor.

33. (Previously presented) One or more computer-readable media as recited in claim 32, wherein the extended property descriptor further comprises a header section indicating the number of custom properties for which mappings exist in the property descriptor.

34. (Previously presented) A computer comprising one or more computer-readable media as recited in claim 32.

35 – 37. (Canceled).

38. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 2, and further comprising communicating, by the USB device, the host-defined string descriptor to the application.

39. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 2, wherein the host-defined string descriptor comprises information in a data format specified by a host of the USB device.

40. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 2, wherein the host-defined string descriptor comprises user interface elements for presentation by the application to a user for interfacing with the USB device.

41. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 2, wherein the host-defined string descriptor comprises one or more user interface elements such as an icon, a font, a picture, a label, a help page, or a URL.

42. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 2, wherein the host-defined string descriptor comprises information for one or more user interface elements in a data format specified by a host of the USB device.

43. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 2, wherein the application is an operating system.

44. (Canceled)

45. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 7, wherein the method further comprises displaying, by the computing device, a set of user interface elements specified by the at least a portion to present a user interface appropriate to the USB device to a user.

46. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 13, wherein the application is an operating system.

47. (Canceled).